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1946-47

# DAHLIAS



KAWEAH—12 to 16½ inches—\$1.00

*Alice Meussdorffer*  
*Dahlia Gardens*

487 HANOVER STREET

SAN FRANCISCO

CALIFORNIA

## AMADOR QUEEN

### BEST DAHLIA IN 1942 SHOW



Amador Queen—15 In.—\$1.50

## GREETINGS FOR 1946

It affords us great pleasure to present our 1946 Catalog and to tell you of our winnings and success with our dahlias in 1945.

Our giant "KAWEAH" was again the Largest Dahlia in our Show. Our beautiful "ELIZABETH RETHBERG" won First Prize for Best 15 Dahlias of One Variety. We won 12 other prizes for General Display; Artistic Display; California Dahlias; 25 Blooms of One Variety; 12 Blooms of One Variety on "Kaweah," etc. We had fine reports from our customers on results from our seeds. We were winners for Best 2-year-old Seedlings in 1943 and 1944 Shows.

With best wishes for 1946,

Sincerely,  
ALICE MEUSSDORFFER.

### HAND-POLLINATED DAHLIA SEED

From our largest and best varieties. 50 Seeds for \$5.00 Net. Out of 100 plants from our Seeds we have 20 Large Outstanding gorgeous Dahlias of all colors, this year.

**TERMS**—Cash with order or before date of shipment. On retail orders for California delivery 2½ % Sales Tax should be added to the amount. Prices listed are for strong field grown divisions. We guarantee that all roots are sent true to name and in good growing condition, but beyond this assume no responsibility. All shipments before April 1st except on the Pacific Coast, are sent by Express Collect to insure against freezing.

On Retail Orders less than \$3.00 add 25c to cover postage and packing.

Wholesale growers are entitled to one-third discount if identified by business stationery.

Write or print name and address plainly.

**ABBREVIATIONS**—Dahlia Classifications: F.D., Formal Decorative; I.D., Informal Decorative; S.C., Semi-Cactus; Min., Miniature; Pom., Pompom.



# DAHLIAS OF OUR OWN CREATION

●

**ALICE GENTLE**—F.D. A magnificent, striking, flaming rich scarlet red. Continuous Prize Winner. Strong bushes, splendid stems. Roots, \$1.00

**ALICE MEUSSDORFFER**—I.D. This large refined beautiful Dahlia is universally admired. The color is a clear pinkish orchid, with a velvety texture; flowers are held erect on long wiry straight stems above the attractive lace-like foliage on tall bushes. \$1.50

**ALTAIR**—I.D. Bicolor. A greatly admired orange and white tipped Dahlia. Medium sized bloom, with good stems on strong bush. Roots \$1.00

**BERDIE KENDAL**—F.D. Very fine creamy yellow Dahlia. Medium sized flower. Long straight stem; excellent keeper. Roots \$1.00

**AMADOR QUEEN**—1942 Introduction. Giant 12-15 in. canary yellow S.Cactus Dahlia, like a sunburst. It does not fade or burn. Blooms are held erect on long straight stiff stems on tall bush; insect resistant foliage. It is a prolific bloomer, excellent keeper and seed-maker. Blooms early and late. An Ohio customer wrote me: "It was the tallest and finest dahlia" he had grown in his thirty years experience growing dahlias. \$1.50

**CLAIRE MORTIMER**—F.D. 1933 Introduction. Honor Roll. Great Prize Winner. 3 times for Best 25 Blooms. Best Dahlia in many Shows. Winner through one, two and three year Seedling stage. Conceded to be the most beautiful dahlia. Its fine form, large size (10-14-in.) and exquisite color, light cyclamen pink, and great depth make it an outstanding flower. Foliage is dark reddish green. Strong insect resistant and blooms are held erect on long wiry stiff but graceful stems, on 5-ft. bush. Prolific bloomer and splendid keeper. \$1.00

**COLEENA COOPER**—S.C. An unusually beautiful rich ruby red Dahlia with a light lilac reverse; twisting petals give an effect of a light tip. Large blooms, stems stiff and wiry, holding flowers well up out of the medium tall bush. Roots \$1.00

**ELIZABETH RETHBERG**—Giant I.D. Great Prize Winner. Best Dahlia in 1944 Show. First Prize for Best 15 Blooms in 1945. A magnificent flawless clear exquisite light pink Dahlia with great depth, which we have grown to 14 in. It is named for the beautiful world-renowned Opera Star of the Metropolitan Opera of New York. Bushes are tall, stems are long and strong; wonderful bloomer and keeper. Roots \$1.00

**ESTHER WILLIAMS**—S.C. Our 1941 Introduction. A large pure white Semi-Cactus Dahlia with every good quality; long good stiff stem, excellent form; does not burn; 5-ft. bush with strong insect-resistant foliage. A good bloomer and cut flower.

Roots \$1.00

**FRANK WERNER**—A giant I.D. with great depth, Great Prize Winner. 1st for Best 12 California Blooms. 1st Prize three times for Best 25 Blooms. Four Firsts for Best 15 Blooms., etc. Size 12-14 in. deep. Warm apricot color, suffused salmon, copper and red. Medium tall bush; strong insect resistant foliage; stems are strong and stiff. Best keeper as a cut flower. Roots \$1.00

**ERIN-GO-BRAH**—F.D. A giant Dahlia of a clear light yellow with a greenish tinge. A splendid clean looking flower, with very strong straight stems on medium tall bush. Excellent keeper. Roots \$1.00

~~**GOEPPNER**~~—This giant bluish fuchsia color with silvery lavender reverse F.D. is a seedling of Kaweah. As flower unfolds each petal is edged with silver. Bushes are medium tall. 12 in. blooms are common on excellent stems. A 1940 Introduction. Roots \$1.00

**GRACE DOUGLAS**—Honor Roll. Great Prize Winner. I. Dec. of a luscious clear pink color, deeper pink at high center of flower, shading lighter towards tip of petals, which twist and curl. Easily grown to 12 in. by 8 deep. 4-ft. bush, excellent growth, long strong stems, prolific bloomer, fine keeper. Roots \$1.00

**JANE LANKTREE**—A glorious large S.C. dahlia of lovely shade of clear pink. It is one of our 1940 Introductions. 5 ft. bush, strong growth, lace-like foliage; blooms are held erect on long strong stems. Roots \$2.50

**JOAN McCORMICK**—I.D. Medium sized bloom of white, edged violet; curling petals, strong straight stems on medium tall bush. Roots \$1.00

**LUCY ADAMS**—1943 Introduction. F.D. Large glorious pink 10-12 in. dahlia. Bush medium tall, long strong stems. Considered the most beautiful and best keeping of all my lovely pink dahlias an Eastern Grower had grown for me. Roots \$2.00

**KAWEAH** — Greatest Prize Winner for Largest Dahlia in Show since its introduction, according to Morgan T. Riley, New York.

Honor Roll. Largest Dahlia in 1945 in San Francisco Show. 1st Prize for Largest Dahlia in San Mateo Co. Fiesta in 1941. In Holland "Kaweah" has won over 100 Prizes and is still going strong, a famous and one of the largest dahlia growers wrote us. It was sent to Chicago by air in 1933, arrived in fine condition, and

last four days, until the end of the Show, receiving First Prize and Sweepstakes for Largest Dahlia.

Kaweah is named for one of our mountain peaks in the High Sierra of California. It is an Indian name. Kaweah has everything—huge size, 12-16½ in., with great depth, splendid long strong straight stem, wonderfully rich color, fuchsia rose, rich velvety cardinal shading at center of flowers, with reverse of orchid and lavender. It has fine form and substance and splendid keeping qualities. These tremendous blooms are held perfectly erect on long straight stems, 18 to 24 in. to first lateral, requiring very little disbudding, one lateral being sufficient. As many as four or more enormous blooms at one time on a bush. Exceptional Prize Winning unpropagated stock. (Illustrated on Front Cover.)

Roots \$1.00

**LAWRENCE TIBBETT**—Eastern and Western Honor Roll. F. Dec. This fine large Dahlia of fine form and beautiful coloring was selected by the world-renowned singer and movie actor to bear his name. The color is a warm glowing clear pink peach. The large flowers are held erect on long strong straight stems on tall bushes, a prolific bloomer and excellent keeper. Fine unpropagated stock.

Roots \$1.00

**NELSON EDDY**—This large beautiful amber, copper and red I. Dec. Dahlia with curling petals was named, with his permission, for the famous, popular Opera Singer and Movie Star. First flowers are gigantic in size; an early and continuous bloomer and excellent keeper; bushes are medium tall, strong growers.

Roots \$1.00

**ROSALIND KEEP**—F.D. Prize Winner. An exquisitely lovely shell pink flower with white center and water lily form. Long strong stems and bush. \$1.00

~~SCHIPA~~—I. Dec. Named for the world-renowned Tenor of the Metropolitan Opera with his permission. This large dahlia of fine form is a lovely rich ruby red, with twisting petals, strong wiry stems on 4 ft. bush.

Roots \$1.00

**SIERRA SUNRISE**—F.D. Immense size and a glorious bronzy orange color when matured; has great depth, long strong wiry stems, with superb bearing. 5-ft. bush and prolific bloomer. **\$1.00**

**SIRIUS**—F.D. Honor Roll. Hailed at the San Francisco Show as the long-awaited Blue Dahlia. Described as grown in New Jersey; quote, "Sirius is the nearest to a blue dahlia we have to date. Here it is a real bluish purple, with very little pink in it; a prolific bloomer, it comes early and is good late; has a fine bush with bloom of perfect bearing." **Roots \$1.00**

## GOOD VARIETIES OF OTHER GROWERS

**ADOLPH MAYER**—I.D. Maroon. Very dark medium sized flower. Strong free branching plant; prolific bloomer. \$1.00

**AMUN RA**—F.D. A stunning copper and orange, with scarlet reverse. Large blooms on long stiff stems. \$ .50

**ANGELO ROSSI**—F.D. Winner of many prizes. Glowing soft orange yellow with just a shade of grenadine. Large blooms on long strong stems. \$1.00

**CALIFORNIA IDOL**—I.D. Lemon yellow. One of the finest. Great Prize Winner. Immense size, long strong stems. \$1.00

**CLARA CARDER**—I.D. Giant beautiful cyclamen pink; medium bush, strong stems. Great Prize Winner. \$1.00

**CLARA CLEMMONS**—Ball. The most striking of the formal ball type dahlia. Crimson, tipped white. \$ .50

**CONQUISTADOR**—S.C. Creamy yellow suffused pink. Large blooms, on long stiff stems. \$1.00

**DARCY SAINSBURY**—F.D. White. Large full flower that is considered the best white formal to date. Free blooming, good keeper. \$1.00

**ELINOR VANDERVEER**—F.D. A beautiful large satiny rose pink dahlia. Excellent keeper. \$ .50

**EL RUBIO**—I.D. Wine red. Large bold flower on long stiff stems. Rugged plant growth. A late bloomer. \$1.50

**EVELYN CHANDLER**—S.C. Golden apricot. A spectacular flower of fine coloring and great size. Great Prize Winner. \$1.00

**GAYLORD BALLAY**—I.D. Pure white. A new giant white that has created a great sensation. Superlative size, vigorous tall growing. Largest and purest white to date that is winning in strong competition. \$5.00

**JANE COWL**—I.D. Great Prize Winner. Large glistening bronzy buff and old gold. Very popular. \$ .50

**JOSEPHINE HAYES**—I.D. An excellent all-purpose yellow dahlia, 8-10 in. diameter, 5-7 deep. Long straight stems on 4-5 ft. bush. Prize Winner. \$1.50

**LOIS WALCHER**—F.D. Prize Winner. Bi-color. Color, deep amaranth to pansy purple, with outer one-third of petals white. \$1.00

~~**LORD OF AUTUMN**~~—I.D. Great Prize Winner for Largest Dahlia. Golden yellow, deep blooms on good stems. \$1.00

~~**MAYOR FRANK OTIS**~~—I.D. Deep yellow with copper shadings. Doubtless one of the largest dahlias grown, with an enviable record. Has depth as well as diameter. \$1.00

**MRS. BRADLEY**—Cac. Lovely pure white, good stems. \$ .75

**SATAN**—S.C. Great Prize Winner. Immense splendid brilliant carmine, gold center. \$1.00

**SNOW QUEEN**—Ball. Pure white, good keeper. \$ .50

## MINIATURE DAHLIAS

**Estelle Gilbert**—S.C. An exquisite cameo pink, yellow center, long stem. \$1.00

**Grace Gulliver**—S.C. Deep rosy lavender, very fine. \$ .75

**Little Darling**—S.C. An exquisite light salmon pink. .50

**Little Dream**—S.C. Exquisite rose pink and white. .50

**Little Jenny**—S.C. Good salmon, buff and yellow; long stems. .50



<b>Little Snow Queen</b> —S.C. Pure white; very fine bloomer.	.50
<b>Luana</b> —F.D. Beautiful coral rose. Long stems.	.50
<b>Marjorie Emberson</b> —I.D. Excellent deep salmon pink.	.50
<b>Mt. Whitney Sunset</b> —F.D. Amber with bronze center, long stems.	.50
<b>Mahbelle</b> —I.D. Salmon red, long stems.	.50
<b>Scarlet Queen</b> —F.D. Bright scarlet, full flowers, long stems.	.50
<b>Tirzah</b> —Our 1941 Introduction. I.D. Lovely ruby red.	.50
<b>Union Jack</b> —Single. White, each petal outlined red.	.50
<b>Valerie</b> —S.C. Salmon pink and buff, long stems.	.50

### MINIATURE DAHLIA SEEDS

Miniature Seeds—100 Seeds—\$1.00 Net.

### COLLARETTE DAHLIAS

<b>Garcon</b> —Yellow, center of petal brownish red, yellow collar.	\$ .50
<b>Gypsy</b> —Rich rosy purple, shading to lavender; tips of petal white, with a white collar.	.50
<b>Brick</b> —Brownish red, yellow collar.	.50
<b>Mt. Lassen</b> —Fiery red, yellow collar.	.50
<del>Snowflake</del> —Large pure white, long stem.	.50

### POMPOM DAHLIAS

<del>Anna Von Schwerin</del> —Small shell pink, white center.	\$ .50
<b>Bantam</b> —Bright red, long stems.	.50
<b>Bossy</b> —Light phlox purple.	.50
<b>Brightest of All</b> —Small bright orange red.	.50
<b>Darkest of All</b> —Maroon, almost black.	.75
<b>Helen Anita</b> —Pink lavender, white center, long stems.	.35
<b>Joe Fette</b> —Pure white, long stems.	.35
<b>Libby Rohr</b> —Cerise purple, very long stems.	.50
<b>Little David</b> —Deep burnt orange.	.35
<b>Minnie Mells</b> —Orchid rose, darker eye.	.35
<b>Rosea</b> —Bluish lilac, small and prolific.	.35
<b>Yellow Gem</b> —Pure yellow, excellent for cutting.	.25

### HELPFUL HINTS ON GROWING DAHLIAS

Prepare the soil in the Fall or early Spring by spading 18 to 24 in. deep. Work in thoroughly, well-rotted manure, which restores the necessary properties and makes the soil mellow.

Dahlias will grow in any kind of soil if properly planted and cultivated. Lighter soil requires more manure or humus-producing material to hold the moisture. Heavy soil requires less fertilizers than light soil. In clay or adobe soil, mix well with sand or coal ashes well spaded in. When possible, plant in an open sunny location, at least 3 feet apart for large dahlias; out of reach of trees or shrubs; small varieties may be planted closer.

There are many fine commercial fertilizers; we like "Vigoro" and have had fine results with it. Make holes 8 to 10 in. in diameter and 12 in. deep. Before planting, mix thoroughly with soil in bottom of the hole, 1 heaping teaspoonful of "Vigoro," add

some soil, then lay tuber flat with eye or sprout up, surrounding it with sand or light soil, never allowing any fertilizer to come in contact with the root. Then mix 1 heaping tablespoonful of "Vigoro" with the soil used in filling the hole. In light soil plant tuber 6 in. deep; in heavy soil, 4 in. deep, covering first with 2 in. of soil, filling in gradually as plant grows. Just as soon as plants are up, keep the soil loose and mellow by hoeing once or twice a week; water once or twice a week slightly, especially in hot weather; do not let them dry out. Every 6 weeks after plants are up, feed with 1 heaping teaspoonful of "Vigoro" to square foot of space around each plant. Keep away from stalk of plant and work lightly into soil. Dahlias are heavy feeders and respond rapidly to proper feeding.

When the plants have set out four sets of leaves, pinch out the top above the fourth set of leaves, giving the plants a chance to branch. This is for the large type dahlias; small dahlias do not need it.

When the buds appear, stop all cultivation and give the plants a mulch of well-rotted manure, leaves, or grass clippings; keep all fertilizers away from stalk, and the ground free from weeds. When buds appear, soak the ground thoroughly once a week or oftener. Watering is one of the most essential things in producing fine flowers.

For extra large blooms, disbud by pinching off all buds in a cluster, except the strongest one.

For cut flowers, pick in the evening or early morning; dip the ends of stems in boiling water for one minute, being careful to keep the flower away from the heat or steam. Put at once in deep cold water, and put in a cool place free from draught until wanted. Never allow faded flowers to remain on bushes, but cut them off with as much stem or stalk as possible. Dahlias will continue to bloom until a heavy frost kills the tops in the Fall. In a cold climate they should be dug shortly afterwards and stored in a dry frost-proof cellar away from heat. Cover with dry soil or peat to keep them from shriveling; inverting them may keep them from rotting. It is advisable to look after them occasionally during the winter.

Divide them in the spring after the eyes begin to show, being careful that each root or tuber has an eye or sprout.

#### **HAND-POLLINATED DAHLIA SEED**

may be had in prices of \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00,  
\$5.00 and \$10.00.

Member of the AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY  
Member of the DAHLIA SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA